

# International Newsletter

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Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development



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## Message from the Mayor

One of the aspects of our city of which we Houstonians are especially proud of is our role as a global logistics center. Earlier in October, China Airlines inaugurated its new cargo service to Houston, which, combined with passenger service, is projected to have a \$200 million impact on the local economy. Also, this year, the new Port of Houston's Bayport terminal is scheduled to open and is expected to increase overall container volume by as much as 11% per year over the next five years.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the amazing strides Houstonians have taken throughout the years in transforming what was once a village on the bayou into the international hub that it is today!



Bill White

**Bill White, Mayor**

## Message from the Director

In our continuing quest to serve Houston as a prime resource for comprehensive and up-to-date information about international activities occurring locally, this month we are especially pleased to announce a revamped version of the Mayor's International Newsletter. As you will

notice, we have reduced overall page count by shifting our focus to upcoming events and business opportunities, saving room for special reports and features of importance to Houston's international community.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback, and we will continue to serve you with great pride!



Helen T. Chang

**Helen T. Chang, Director**

# Upcoming Events

## International Connections: South Africa

On November 1, 2006, Mundunwazi Baloyi, South African Minister of Economics, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Houston Partnership's International Connections networking function at the GHP Boardroom, where he will discuss potential business opportunities. For more information, please contact (713) 844-3662.

## Women's Global Leadership Conference in Energy

On November 2, 2006 Women in Technology International will host the Women's Global Leadership Conference in Energy and Development at the Hilton Americas, and will address the future role of energy and the challenges that it poses for global leaders. For more information, please contact (713) 844-3661.

## National Hispanic Professional Organization 3rd Annual Gala

The National Hispanic Professional Organization will hold its third annual gala on November 4, 2006. This formal networking event will feature music by Avizo and will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Louisiana Street. For more information, please contact snabil@nhpo.us.

## Japan America Society of Houston Gala

On November 15, 2006, the Japan America Society of Houston will host their annual gala at the Inter-continental Hotel. The evening's keynote speaker will be the Honorable, J. Thomas Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador to Japan. For more information, please contact (713) 963-0121.

## Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission to Belize

The Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce will lead a business opportunity mission to Belize on November 30 – December 3, 2006. The mission will give business owners the opportunity to solidify their trade relationships with companies in Belize. For more information, please contact [www.tricountyblackchamber.org](http://www.tricountyblackchamber.org)

## HTC Introduction to Entrepreneurship

On November 29, 2006, the Houston Technology Center will offer an introduction to entrepreneurship designed to help technology entrepreneurs structure their businesses for optimum profitability. The program will be held at the Houston Technology Center. For more information, please contact 713-658-1750.

# Opportunities and Resources

**Employment:** Japan Studies Fellowship Program: highly qualified researchers to conduct research at a university in Japan  
Contact: [www.ssrc.org/fellowships/japan](http://www.ssrc.org/fellowships/japan)

**Employment:** Rice University: Assistant to the President  
Contact: [www.rice.edu](http://www.rice.edu)

**Employment:** Deborah Hroch and Associates: Candidates that are proficient in accounting and Quickbooks  
Contact: [deb@dhroch.com](mailto:deb@dhroch.com)



**Mayor's Office, City of Houston  
&  
Jinshan District, Shanghai Municipal Government, China**

*Cordially invite you to the*

## **2006 JINSHAN — HOUSTON CHEMICAL INDUSTRY FORUM**

*In Honor of:*

The Honorable Li Yuyi	Governor	The People's Government of Jinshan
Mr. Guo Weiyi	Director	Government Office of Jinshan
Mr. Shi Degen	Director	Construction and Transportation Commission
Mr. Yin Jinrong	Director	Investment Promotion Bureau
Mr. Yan Minghua	Deputy Director	Government Office of Jinshan
Mr. Tao Liqiang	Deputy Director	Foreign Economy Commission
Ms. Zhang Hong	Deputy Director	Planning Bureau of Jinshan
Mr. Chen Mang	Deputy Director	Foreign Affairs Office of Jinshan
Mr. Wang Xiangtian	Deputy Director	Second Industrial Zone Administration Committee
Ms. Lu Yuqin	Interpreter	Foreign Affairs Office of Jinshan
Mr. Xia Jie	Mayor	Shanyang Township
Mr. Yan Jie	Mayor	Jinshanwei Township
Mr. Lu Zhenghua	Deputy Mayor	Shanyang Township
Mr. Shi Wenquan	Deputy Mayor	Zhangyan Township
Mr. Xia Lei	Deputy Mayor	Fengjing Township

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Consulate General of China in Houston  
Greater Houston Partnership  
Houston Technology Center  
University of Houston Global Energy Management Institute  
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Export Assistance Center (Houston)

**Thursday, November 16, 2006**

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**J.W. Marriott Hotel  
Grand Ballroom**  
5150 Westheimer Road  
Houston, Texas 77056

The government of China has designated the Jinshan District, Shanghai's largest, as a development site for a world-class chemical industry. The Jinshan No. 2 Industrial Zone is a new large-scale enterprise in the region, focusing on petrochemical, fine chemical and value added organic chemical materials. The Zone has already 25 plants in operation, another 20 are under construction, and 10 more are in a negotiation stage. Total investment in the Zone to date stands at \$500M USD.

The Jinshan District has been developing the type of infrastructure compatible with and complementary to the chemical industry. The District is also home to two renowned academic institutions, which have trained over 20,000 chemical plant operators and technicians.

The City of Houston is hosting a half-day forum for local chemical companies interested in the many projects available in Jinshan District's No. 2 Industrial Zone. Jinshan Governor, The Honorable Yuyi Li, along with 14 high-level District officials will be present at the Forum to describe business opportunities, answer any questions, and to begin a dialogue with all interested parties.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/ State/ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your Company's primary area of interest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, November 14, 2006  
Fax: (713) 247-2100

For more information please contact (713) 247-1453  
or E-mail: [icch@cityofhouston.net](mailto:icch@cityofhouston.net)

**\*\*\*\*This event is free of charge, but space is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis\*\*\*\***

# **Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)**

## **MIADC– South Asia**

The Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council for South Asia (MIADC/South Asia) is composed of 39 members, making it the organization's largest regional council. Representing areas as varied as engineering, law and medicine, its members reflect the interests of Houston's burgeoning South Asian population. The Council has been actively planning various outreach programs, both in the Houston community and in communities in South Asia. These include attempts to establish contacts with regions in India and Pakistan devastated by last year's earthquake, encouraging exchanges in the health sciences and the medical profession.



Rao Ratnala, President and Founder of Ratnala and Bahl, Inc., an engineering firm, is chair of MIADC/South Asia. Ratnala is a graduate of New Mexico State University and the University of Virginia, where he earned a master's degree in Civil Engineering. Ratnala is also highly involved in a variety of community activities. He is a founding member of the Indo-American Political Action Committee and currently serves on the board of the Houston Community College Foundation, the University of St. Thomas and the Houston Music Hall Foundation. He is also a member of the Minority Task Force of the Greater Houston Partnership.



Ahmad Durrani, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Rice University, is chair elect of MIADC/South Asia. Educated at the University of Houston and at the University of Michigan, where he received his doctorate in civil engineering. Durrani's research and professional interests include earthquake engineering and sustainable development. Following the 2005 Kashmir earthquake, he led a U.S. reconnaissance team of earthquake experts to the affected region. Durrani has also served on panels organized by the World Economic Forum, and the National Science Foundation.



Manpreet Singh is the secretary of the MIADC/South Asia. She is a graduate of the University of Texas and the South Texas College of Law where she earned her doctor of jurisprudence degree. Singh has long worked to spread awareness of the South Asian community, especially of the Sikhs. She has been involved in the cadet sensitivity training of the Houston Police Department. As a student, she was also active in the South Asian community, serving as the Executive Advisor of the South Asian Law Association. From 2002-2005, Singh served as the vice-president of the South Asian American Bar Association.

### **MIADC-South Asia Other Council Members**

Jay Aiyer	Sohela Hassan	Shabnam Lutafali	Selina Rahman	Tasleem Siddiqui
Dinker Amatya	Nomaan Hussein	Rakesh Manga	Sanjay Rambhadran	Randhir Sinha
Ghulam Bombaywala	Syed Izfar	Harinath Medi	Haroon Shaikh	Joseph Sreshta
Sajjad Burki	Abdullah Jafari	Rahman Moton	Sampuran Singh	Zafar Tahir
Saeed Gaddi	Jagat Kamdar	Prakash Patel	Karun Sreerama	Radha Thiagarajan
Alamdard Hamdani	Abdul Khan	Vikram Patel	Rodwan Saleh	George Willy
Lufti Hassan	Shaukat Khan	Asaf Qadeer	Dinesh Shah	Shaukat Zakaria

## Sister City Spotlight – Tyumen, Russian Federation

*This month, the International Newsletter completes its focus on Houston's 16 sister cities from around the globe. This month we feature Tyumen, Russian Federation.*



*A winding road in Tyumen*

Houston and Tyumen established a sister city relationship in 1995. Founded in 1586, Tyumen became the first Russian town in Siberia.

Originally established as a Russian fort post, today the city of Tyumen has a population of over 500,000. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, Tyumen became an important trade hub on the routes to Central Asia, China and Persia, as well as a center for handcrafts and leather goods.

Oil was discovered in the Tyumen region in 1948, and in the 1960s and 1970s the oil industry became a vital component of the city's economy. Today, Tyumen is an important center for Russia's oil and gas industries. Companies such as UT Air, Gazprom and LUKOIL locate many of their operations in Tyumen. Due to its location on the Trans-Siberian railway, Tyumen is also a major transfer point for river and rail freight.

Business ties between Houston and Russia have been increasing. Indeed, trade with Russia increased by more than 60% between 2003 and 2005. In 2005, Russia ranked as the 14<sup>th</sup> largest total trade partner with the Houston-Galveston Customs District, with over \$2.9 billion in trade. Air cargo trade between Russia and Houston was valued at nearly \$59.2 million and sea borne cargo

### **Did you know?**

Tyumen was one of the last places that the Czar Nicolas II visited before his execution.

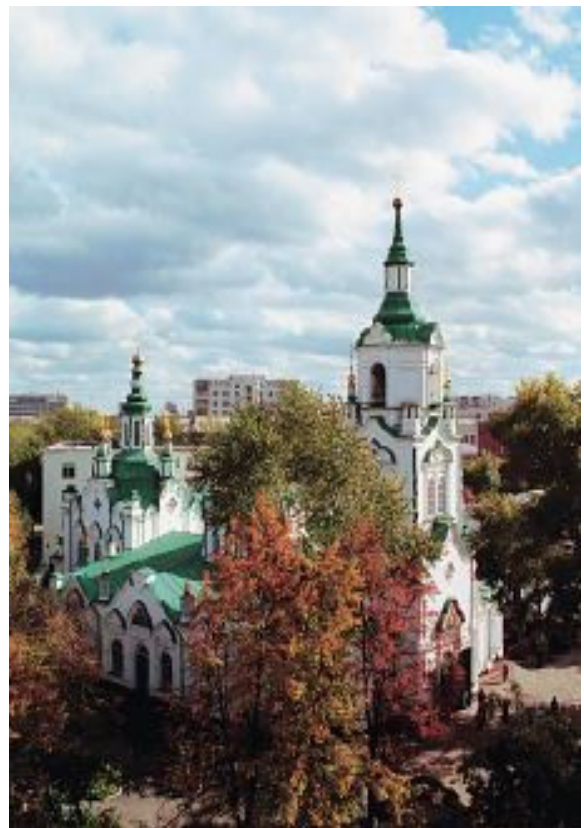
The region produces 80% of Russia's oil and gas, and has a population of almost 1.5 million.

Source: [www.russiatrek.com](http://www.russiatrek.com) &  
[www.sistercitiesofhouston.com](http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.com)

was valued at more than \$1.4 billion, which is more than a 25% increase from the previous year.

Today, more than 900 Houston companies are actively trading with the Eastern European region and over 30 Houston-based companies have subsidiaries in the Russia Federation.

For more information about the sister city association and their activities, please contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395 or [protocol@ghcvb.org](mailto:protocol@ghcvb.org).



*On a sunny day in Tyumen, spires and sky seem to meet.*

### *Special Thanks*

*Article submitted by Alma Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.*

## Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

# Costa Rica

*This month we visit a country with a diverse landscape that contains rivers, volcanoes, rainforests, and beautiful coastlines to speak to the Honorable Sergio Alonso Valverde Alpizar, Costa Rican Consul General in Houston, and to discuss everything from port relations to foreign investments.*



*Consul General Sergio Alonso Valverde Alpizar*

Costa Rica—a country defined by pristine coastlines, a mountainous inner core, and numerous microclimates containing some of the world's greatest biodiversity—extends its relations to the city of Houston through its Consul General, the Honorable Sergio Alonso Valverde Alpizar.

Among the Consul's professional interests is a dedication to assisting Costa Rican expatriates living in Houston, and to becoming the link to potential investment relations between both countries. When asked what his goals as a Consul General are, Valverde responded enthusiastically that he wishes to “offer an efficient service in his post and to promote Costa Rica as a country that can serve not only as a place where one can relax but also as a country with great commercial and corporate opportunities.”

**~By Michelle Kneeland**

While serving as a judge for twelve years in Costa Rica, the Consul General also obtained a master's degree in diplomacy at the Institute of Foreign Service Manuel Maria Peralta. After concluding his studies, Valverde decided to pursue his ardent dream of becoming a Consul General and represent his country abroad.

Houston became Valverde's first consular post, which began on March 1, 2005. The Consul indicated that he became captivated by Houston's “ethnic and cultural diversity, its constant movement and its potential. Houston is a young cosmopolitan city that through its strength can only continue growing”.

The Consulate has served as a bridge for fostering relations between Costa Rica and Houston since its establishment in 1974. Consul General Valverde Alpizar emphasized that the Consulate continues to bridge relations between both countries while also “opening Costa Rica's doors to the economic progress found within Houston.” Among the various Costa Rican products imported into Houston, one finds tropical fruits (such as pineapples and bananas) and many sports items, primarily baseballs. The launching of several direct flights from Houston Intercontinental Airport to the Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose have augmented relations between Costa Rica and U.S. companies.



*Map of Costa Rica*

### Did You Know?

Although Costa Rica represents only 0.1 percent of the world's landmass, it represents five percent of the world's biodiversity. 25 percent of the country's land is devoted to protected forests and reserves.

*Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)*

# International Hub: Export-Import Bank



*Director Patrick Crilley*

With a staff of four serving an eight-state area, the southwest regional branch of the United States Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank may look like a small operation. But from its neat, unassuming offices in west Houston, this small team has supported more than \$8 billion of Texas exports since 2002, affecting more than 1,200 companies. According to

Regional Director Patrick Crilley, the results of this support extend far beyond the boardroom.

“Exporting is basically a job machine,” Crilley said. “The more U.S. companies export, the more jobs they can make available [and] the more people they can hire.”

The Ex-Im Bank is the United States’ official export credit agency. Its mission is to assist in financing the export of U.S. goods and services. It does so by providing pre-export financing, export credit insurance and loan guarantees, as well as extending credit terms to foreign buyers, who might otherwise turn elsewhere for products, and by assuming financing risks that traditional lenders would be unwilling or unable to take.

The exporting transactions themselves are handled from the Ex-Im Bank’s Washington office. And, while large businesses usually approach the Washington office directly, small businesses are often unaware that the international market is accessible to them, Crilley said.

Regional offices are therefore highly involved in both outreach and education, primarily targeting the small business community. When a small company expresses interest in exporting, the regional office initially acts as a consultant. It not only advises the company of the products that might be useful, but also puts the company in touch with other government agencies that might fill needs beyond the Ex-Im Bank’s scope, including the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration.

Last year, 84% of the Ex-Im Bank’s total transactions and 19% of its total allocations

nationwide were to small businesses. But despite notable success, education remains the southwest regional office’s chief concern. “Our biggest challenge is brand recognition,” Crilley said.

Due to its proximity to Mexico and to the significance of the increasingly internationalized energy industry, Houston is the southwest region’s biggest and most successful market, Crilley said.

Of 1,241 Texas companies that the Ex-Im Bank has supported in the past five years, 54% were Houston companies. For the past five years, Mexico has been one of the United States’ leading export partners, and Crilley attributes this success to the work that his office has done. “Without our support, [exporters] wouldn’t be as competitive or successful,” he said.

In the future, Crilley expects the Ex-Im Bank to take a more proactive role in acquiring export deals. In addition to helping companies take advantage of existing export opportunities, the Ex-Im Bank hopes to generate new opportunities through direct contact with international buyers.

“Historically, the Ex-Im Bank has been reactive,” he said. “Now we’re trying to seek out possibilities in foreign markets.”

**~By Sarah Clarke**

## **Did You Know?**

The Export Import Bank, which now bolsters Houston businesses, was founded by Houston native Jesse H. Jones who also acted as its first president.

Jones was also the founder of what is now Chase Bank as well as a generous philanthropist whose name graces everything from the Houston Symphony’s Jones Hall to the Jesse H. Jones Public Library.

*Source: [www.exim.gov](http://www.exim.gov)*

# **Connections Across the Globe:**

*This month we track exciting developments taking place within Houston's Airport and Port systems.*

## **Houston Airport System**

China Airlines is the first Asian airline offering regular passenger and cargo service to Houston following the recent start of the company's new all-cargo service to Bush Intercontinental Airport. Top international cargo importers and exporters celebrated the inauguration of this service at a luncheon held on October 18.

Johnny L.Y. Yuan, marketing director in the Americas for China Airlines, says the carrier saw opportunity in Houston's petrochemical, medical, aerospace and information technology industries, pointing out that one of the major cargo exports to Asia is petroleum-exploring equipment.

The new flight service, which will run twice weekly between Taipei and Houston, will shorten delivery times, increasing revenue for the many companies that transport goods between Houston and Asia. As Estella Dorman, import transportation manager for Expeditors International in Houston, says "Time is

money and if you can shave off your delivery time, it is an added bonus to your clients. We're very excited about this new service. The market in Houston is very strong – the capacity that air freight carriers need to operate— it's here."

**~ Special Thanks to the Houston Airport System**

### **Did You Know?**

The Houston Airport System contributes over \$24 billion in positive economic impact to the Greater Houston Region each year. In 2005, the HAS served 48 million passengers. It is the 4th-largest multi-airport system in the U.S. and the 6th-largest in the world.

*Source: Houston Airport System*

## **Port of Houston Authority**

Port of Houston Authority (PHA) Chairman Jim Edmonds and Executive and Trade Development Division officials recently completed business trade missions to East Asia, Europe and Brazil.

The missions included visits with current and potential PHA partners and customers, including steamship line operators in Tokyo, Shanghai, Seoul and Taipei in East Asia; London, Marseille, Antwerp, Copenhagen and Hamburg in Europe; and the Brazilian cities of Santos, Florianopolis and Sao Paulo.

To reciprocate PHA's Trade Mission, a delegation of business and media representatives from Brazil, including Santos-based port terminal operators, recently traveled to Houston. The objective of their visit was to familiarize themselves with PHA's terminal facilities, including the new Bayport container and passenger cruise terminals that are currently under construction with targeted completion dates by end of this year and next summer, respectively.

Over the past several years, PHA has amassed an extensive roster of agreements with ports around the world. Brazil represents one of the most recent additions to a list that includes countries as diverse as Trinidad, Georgia and France.

In a formal signing ceremony, PHA and officials from the Companhia Docas do Estado de São Paulo marked their renewed commitment to work together under the terms of a Memorandum of Friendship and Trade Cooperation.

**~Special Thanks to Port of Houston Authority**

### **Did You Know?**

The Port of Houston Authority is the site of the nation's largest petrochemical production complex. In 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency selected the Port of Houston as the only port to be trained in the creation of sophisticated environmental management systems.

*Source: Port of Houston Authority*

# The Global Bridge: Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce

*Each month the International Newsletter features “the Global Bridge” section, which introduces various local chambers of commerce dedicated to promoting Houston’s international image.*



*Trond Unneland, the Hon. Knut Vollebaek and Magne Ostby*

The Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) was founded in New York in 1915, and its Southwest Chapter was established in Houston in 1971.

Magne Ostby, president of Cormon, Inc., also serves as president of NACC, and has had much experience in the area of Norwegian trade. For five years, Ostby helped develop trade and investment opportunities for Norwegian companies in the U. S., serving as Norway’s trade commissioner for North America. He and Ms. Anne Brith Berge, the executive director of the NACC in Houston, are both proud of the approximately 5,000 first generation Norwegians who currently live in Houston.

A non-profit, non-political group, the NACC was established to assist in promoting trade and goodwill between the people of the U.S. and Norway. NACC serves as a forum for business, personal, cultural and educational exchanges, which benefit the common interests of the two countries.

Additionally, the NACC works to establish common links between American and Norwegian companies and individuals, because, as Berge notes, “Many Houstonians are not aware that there are 110 Norwegian companies that have offices here in the fields of oil, energy and shipping.” Referencing one of her favorite examples of the chamber’s work, Berge said, “Stavanger is Norway’s energy capital and this summer, we led a student delegation to Stavanger to promote educational exchanges, and drew great support from the business community in both countries.”

The NACC regularly hosts luncheons with keynote speakers. In October, Trond Unneland, managing director of Chevron NorgeAs, spoke at the “Norway connection: Chevron’s growing partnership in Norwegian assets and technology,” luncheon, which attracted 110 guests.

Every year, NACC hosts a Christmas buffet at the Houston Country Club, which features Norwegian and American Christmas foods. Last year, the very popular event drew 275 guests. Large lunch and dinner arrangements in connection with the Offshore Technology Conference are also hosted by NACC every May.



*Map of Norway*

Berge serves as both the executive director of NACC and president of Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Association. “Norwegians will often be sent here for five or six years by their companies, and I have found they enjoy the welcoming Houstonians and the warm weather. We hope that the NACC can offer these Norwegians a meeting place to exchange ideas, share experiences and facilitate networking.”

## *Special Thanks*

*Article submitted by the  
Norwegian American  
Chamber of Commerce*

# International Frontier

*Each month the International Newsletter focuses on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding service and contributions to the growth of Houston as an international city.*



*Dr. Mauro Ferrari*

An inventor with more than 20 issued patents, author of six books and 100 scientific papers, holder of six

current job titles and father of one son and *two sets of twin daughters* ...

Dr. Mauro Ferrari, a born and bred Italian who resides in Houston, boasts all of the above distinctions. As president of Houston's Alliance for NanoHealth, Ferrari is charged with the important task of the sharing of disciplines in the "first" collaborative effort between Texas Medical Center, Rice University, the University of Houston and NASA. All of the tremendous scientific human capital and talent coupled with the huge financial resources in the Medical Center will be brought together to identify and cure human diseases using nanotechnology.

According to U.S. Representative John Culberson, who helped bring Ferrari to Houston, "Nanotechnology is building things at the billionth of an inch scale, and it will revolutionize the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> century in the same way that oil and electricity revolutionized the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

Ferrari has spent years researching scientific and medical centers across the planet for those that had the greatest potential for using nanotechnology to identify and cure diseases.

"All of Houston's strengths combine to make the city a regional hub for medical discoveries where research is coupled with the unprecedented

concentration of research in nanotechnology. As a result, Houston is a center of nanohealth for the world," says Ferrari.

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he taught there with scientific tenure for 15 years. He was recruited to Ohio State University where he served as professor, director of Dorothy Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute and director of Biomedical Engineering Center.

He also currently serves as professor of the Brown Institute of Molecular Medicine; chairman of biomedical engineering at University of Texas Health Science Center; professor of experimental therapeutics at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; professor of bioengineering at Rice University; professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at University of Texas Medical Branch.

Ferrari's wife, Paola, and he have five children. In his very limited spare time, he coaches his girls' basketball and soccer teams, and plays the tenor saxophone "badly," his words!

~By Mary Jane Wakefield

## Did You Know?

The Texas Medical Center is the largest medical complex in the world and is second only to Boston in total research spending. It is one of the most respected medical research and patient care facilities in the world.

*Source: Houston Alliance for NanoHealth*

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Fax: (713) 247-2100**

**Next Submission  
Deadline:  
November 20, 2006**

## Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact
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## NOVEMBER

Mid-Nov.	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Beijing Municipal Bureau of Industrialization Delegation	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
Late Nov.	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Dalian Ocean Park Delegation	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
Nov. 1	4:00 - 6:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: International Connections—South Africa; featuring Mr. Mudunwazi Baloyi	Venue: Contact:	GHP 713-844-0262
Nov. 1	5:30pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Appreciation for Gordon Quan	Venue: Contact:	Kim Son Restaurant 713-782-7222
Nov. 2	6:30 - 8:30pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce and OCA: Mixer	Venue: Contact:	Yao's Restaurant 713-782-7222
Nov. 2	7:00 - 6:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Women in Leadership	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-522-7811
Nov. 2	9:30 - 1:30pm	Harris County RIDES and Houston-Galveston Area Council: RIDES/Coordinated Transportation Forum	Venue: Contact:	Doubletree Hotel 713-993-2478
Nov. 2	--	Women's Global Leadership Conference in Energy & Technology	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-520-4402
Nov. 3	8:30 - 5:00pm	University of Houston Global Energy Management Institute: The 2006 Refining Conference, <i>'The Future of the Gulf Coast Refining Industry'</i>	Venue: Contact:	Hyatt Regency Hotel 832-368-1884
Nov. 3	10:00 - 11:15am	University of Houston: State of the University Address	Venue: Contact:	UH 713-743-2255
Nov. 3	11:30 - 1:30pm	Central Houston, Inc: 2006 Annual Meeting Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-650-1470
Nov. 3	11:30 - 1:30pm	Houston Technology Center: Fast Tech 50 Awards Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 713-658-1750
Nov. 4	6:00 - 1:00am	National Hispanic Professional Organization: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala	Venue: Contact:	Hyatt Regency Hotel 713-654-1234
Nov. 5	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Karamay Delegation	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
Nov. 6	11:30 - 1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Governance and Corruption—Myths and Realities	Venue: Contact:	Petroleum Club 713-522-7811
Nov. 7	11:30 - 1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Iraq and Back—Inside the War to Win the Peace	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-522-7811
Nov. 8	11:30 - 1:15pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: November Monthly Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-782-7222
Nov. 8	12:00 - 1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Election Night Analysis 2006	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 713-844-3682
Nov. 9	6:00 - 8:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: The Palestinian Struggle for Statehood	Venue: Contact:	Junior League 713-522-7811

<b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>6:00 - 8:30pm</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: 2006 Houston's Greatest Awards Event</b>	Venue: Contact:	JW Marriott Hotel 713-844-3694
<b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Miller Outdoor Theatre: The Royal Drummers of Burundi</b>	Venue: Contact:	Miller Outdoor Theatre 281-FREE FUN
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>11:30 - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: International Business Distinguished Speaker series—Jim Glassman, Chief Economist of JP Morgan Chase</b>	Venue: Contact:	Federal Reserve Bank-Houston Branch 713-844-3635
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Miller Outdoor Theatre: Natalie MacMaster</b>	Venue: Contact:	Miller Outdoor Theatre 281- FREE FUN
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls Harbor: 2006 Boys &amp; Girls Harbor Gala "There's No Place Like Home"</b>	Venue: Contact:	Intercontinental Hotel 713-688-6262
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>City of Houston Special Events Office: Houston Salutes American Heroes, Veterans Day Parade</b>	Venue: Contact:	Herman Square at City Hall www.houstonspecialevents.org
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>Cultural Division, Taipei Economic &amp; Cultural Office and University of St. Thomas: Inaugural Mandarin Speech Contest</b>	Venue: Contact:	University of St. Thomas 713-525-6915
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>2:30 - 8:00pm</b>	<b>Colombian Folkloric Ballet: Colombia Unica, featuring Colombia's Ballet Santiago de Cali and USA's Colombian Folkloric Ballet</b>	Venue: Contact:	Zilkha Hall of Hobby Center 713-315-2525
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Czech Center Houston: "A Sunday Afternoon Concert," featuring The Wallinger Quartet</b>	Venue: Contact:	Prague Hall 713-528-2060
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>11:30 - 1:00pm</b>	<b>International Trade Summit &amp; Expo 2006: Reaching Beyond Borders</b>	Venue: Contact:	George R. Brown Convention Center 713-819-7371
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>5:45 - 8:25pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: World Quest 2006</b>	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-522-7811
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>Noon- 1:30pm</b>	<b>Greater Houston Partnership: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Quality of Life Visionary Awards</b>	Venue: Contact:	Allen Center Doubletree Hotel 713-844-0221
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>6:00 - 7:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: Africa Unchained—The Picture of Africa Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-522-7811
<b>Nov. 14-16</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City of Houston Mayor's Office: Jinshan Delegation</b>	Venue: Contact:	-- MOIAD
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>7:30 - 9:30am</b>	<b>Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: Chat with Ambassador Carlos Alberto de Azevedo Pimentel</b>	Venue: Contact:	TBD 713-827-7226
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Japan America Society of Houston: JASH Gala with Keynote Speaker Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador to Japan</b>	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 713-963-0121
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>City Of Houston Mayor's Office: Jinshan-Houston Petrochemical Industry Forum</b>	Venue: Contact:	JW Marriott 713-247-1453
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Houston Networking News: Third Annual HNN Expo "Success-Today and Beyond," featuring Spencer Tillman</b>	Venue: Contact:	Reliant Center 281-778-6661
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>9:00 - 5:00pm</b>	<b>Houston Networking News: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HNN Expo, featuring BNI founder Ivan Misner</b>	Venue: Contact:	Reliant Center 281-778-6661
<b>Nov. 30-Dec. 3</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce, Belize City Council and BELTRAIDE of Belize: Business Opportunity Mission to Belize</b>	Venue: Contact:	Belize City, Belize Central America 832-875-3977
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>10:00 - 2:00pm</b>	<b>Congressman Al Green and NALEO Educational Fund: U.S. Citizenship Workshop</b>	Venue: Contact:	HCC West Loop Campus 713-383-9234

<b>Nov. 28</b>	<b>11:30 - 1:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: Toward a Society Under Law—Citizens and Their Police in Latin America</b>	Venue: Contact:	Hyatt Regency Hotel 713-522-7811
<b>Nov. 29</b>	<b>8:15 - 5:00pm</b>	<b>Houston Technology Center: Introduction to Entrepreneurship</b>	Venue: Contact:	HTC 713-658-1750
<b>Nov. 29 - Dec. 15</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>Russian Cultural Center Our Texas: Caroling for Kids</b>	Venue: Contact:	Omni Houston Hotel 713-395-3301
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>6:00 - 7:30pm</b>	<b>Houston World Affairs Council: What's Next for Israel?</b>	Venue: Contact:	Junior League 713-522-7811



*We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.*

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.